

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-29. (Canceled).

30. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 34, further comprising the step of reproducing the converted data recorded on the recording medium loaded on the recording apparatus.

31. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 34, further comprising the steps of:

reading the converted data recorded on the recording medium;

extracting the copy permission information from the converted data recorded on the recording medium;

generating information for controlling copying of the converted data to be output in accordance with the type of copy permission specified by the copy permission information; and

outputting the converted data along with the generated information for controlling copying of the converted data.

32. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 34, further comprising the step of transforming the data into a form which cannot be reproduced when copied onto other recording medium.

33. (Canceled).

34. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling copying of data in a recording apparatus, the method comprising the steps of:

inputting the data to be recorded onto a recording medium;

converting the input data into a predetermined format which is reproducible in the recording apparatus;

determining whether the input data includes information for controlling copying of the data;

if the input data does not include the information for controlling copying of the data, then adding copying permission information to the converted data;

if the input data includes the information for controlling copying of the data, then:

extracting the information for controlling copying of the data included in the input data;

receiving, via an operational panel, a copy restriction level from a user;

comparing a copy restriction level indicated by the information for controlling copying of the data included in the input data with [[a]] the predetermined copy restriction level instructed via an operation panel;

generating the copy permission information in accordance with the  
~~comparing comparison of the copy restriction level with the predetermined copy~~  
~~restriction level~~, the copy permission information specifying a type of copy  
permission to be associated with the data; and  
adding the copy permission information to the converted data; and  
recording the converted data with the copy permission information onto the  
recording medium.

35. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 34, further  
comprising the step of determining whether copy protection of the converted data to be  
recorded is instructed by a user of the recording apparatus, and wherein the copy  
permission information is generated and added to the converted data if copy protection  
of the converted data to be recorded is instructed.

36-37. (Canceled).

38. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 42, further  
comprising a reproducing device which reproduces the converted data recorded on the  
recording medium loaded on the recording apparatus.

39. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 42, further comprising:

a reading device which reads the converted data recorded on the recording medium;

an information extracting device which extracts the copy permission information from the converted data recorded on the recording medium;

an information generating device which generates information for controlling copying of the converted data to be output in accordance with the type of copy permission specified by the copy permission information; and

an outputting device which outputs the converted data along with the generated information for controlling copying of the converted data.

40. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 42, further comprising a transforming device which transforms the data into a form which cannot be reproduced when copied onto other recording medium.

41. (Canceled).

42. (Currently Amended) A recording apparatus comprising:

an operation panel which receives a copy restriction level from a user;

an inputting device which inputs data to be recorded onto a recording medium;

a converting device which converts the input data into a predetermined format which is reproducible in the recording apparatus;

a determining device which determines whether the input data includes information for controlling copying of the data;

an extracting device which extracts the information for controlling copying of the data included in the input data;

a comparing device which compares a copy restriction level indicated by the information for controlling copying of the data included in the input data with [[a]] the predetermined copy restriction level instructed via the operation panel;

a generating device which generates copy permission information in accordance with an output of the comparing device ~~the comparison of the copy restriction level with the predetermined copy restriction level~~, the copy permission information specifying a type of copy permission to associate with the data;

an adding device which adds the copy permission information to the converted data; and

a recording device which records the converted data with the copy permission information onto the recording medium.

43. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 42, further comprising an instruction determining device which determines whether copy protection of the converted data to be recorded is instructed by a user of the recording apparatus, and wherein the copy permission information is generated and added to the converted data if copy protection of the converted data to be recorded is instructed.

44. (Canceled).

45. (New) A method for controlling copying of data in a recording apparatus, the method comprising the steps of:

- inputting the data to be recorded onto a recording medium;
- determining whether the input data is associated with information for controlling copying of the data;
- extracting the information for controlling copying upon determining that the input data is associated with the information for controlling copying;
- detecting a copy restriction level of the data via an operation panel operated by a user;
- comparing a copy restriction level of the information for controlling copying with the copy restriction level;
- generating copy permission in accordance with the comparing, the copy permission information being determined by selecting a strict copy level; and
- adding the copy permission information to the data;
- recording the data with the copy permission information onto the recording medium;

46. (New) A recording apparatus comprising:

- an operation panel which receives a copy restriction level from a user;
- an inputting device which inputs data to be recorded onto a recording medium;
- a determining device which determines whether the input data is associated with information for controlling copying of the data;

an extracting device which extracts the information for controlling copying upon determining that the input data is associated with the information for controlling copying;

a comparing device which compares a copy restriction level of the information for controlling copying with the copy restriction level;

a generating device which generates copy permission in accordance with an output of the comparing device, the copy permission information being determined by selecting a strict copy level; and

an adding device which adds the copy permission information to the data; and

a recording device which records the data with the copy permission information onto the recording medium;